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February 18, 2005

“Congressional ‘Angels in Adoption’ Awards To Honor New Mexican Adoptive Family”

Albuquerque, February 18, 2005 – The 2005 Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute’s “Angels in Adoption” award will be presented to New Mexico adoptive parents Theresa Baca-Aragon and Manuel Roanie-Aragon on **Monday, February 21 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will take place on the ground floor of the Galleria Plaza, Third and Tijeras, Albuquerque.** Congresswoman Heather Wilson will present the award, and special speakers will include New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department Secretary Mary-Dale Bolson and Bernalillo County Commissioner Teresa Cordova.

The *Angels in Adoption* program boasts the most Congressional support of any child welfare project in the nation. It is unique in allowing members of Congress to take an active role in selecting a constituent of their choice as an award recipient. In addition, National Angels in Adoption are selected by the Congressional Directors of CCAI for their work on a national and international scale. Past National Angels include Mohammed and Lonnie Ali, Jane Seymour and Bruce Willis.

The Aragons adopted six siblings, aged infant to teenagers. “It was wonderful for us to have the opportunity to give these children a family and a chance to grow up together,” said Theresa. The couple was nominated for the award by The Adoption Exchange, a New Mexico non-profit organization for 23 years for which they volunteer. The Adoption Exchange assists in matching children who are freed for adoption with adoptive families. “We are pleased to have Congress recognize the dedication and caring of these extraordinary adoptive parents,” stated Adoption Exchange representative Arleen Lucero.

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Congressional ‘Angels in Adoption’ Awards (Add 1

